

# WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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United States  
Department  
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Statistics Service

## Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending July 15, 2001

### WEEK IN BRIEF:

Winter Wheat and Barley Harvest Started  
Excellent Hay Quality Reported

### FIELD CROPS

Hot and dry conditions continued to stress cereal crops. Winter wheat, barley, grass seed, and dry bean harvest began in low precipitation areas. Spring wheat and barley were completely headed out. Fussarian root rot was found in cereal grains. Potato harvest continued. A few thunderstorms covered eastern Washington, with little precipitation. Christmas tree growers sprayed insecticides and top worked Douglas and Noble firs.

### LIVESTOCK

Typical summer weather made near perfect hay harvesting conditions, resulting in good to excellent hay quality being reported. Second cutting was in full swing with some farmers starting third cutting. Range and pasture conditions were 7% very poor, 45% poor, 34% fair, and 14% good. Range conditions continued to deteriorate due to lack of precipitation.

### FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Raspberry and blueberry harvest continued in full swing, with excellent berry quality reported. Strawberry and cherry harvest began to taper down. Boysenberry harvest was underway while lettuce, carrots, cabbage, apricot, and peach harvest continued.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
6.9	6.8

Soil Moisture	Soil Moisture and Supply			
	% Acreage			
Soil Type	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	9	50	41	-
Subsoil	18	52	30	-
Irrigation Water	-	15	85	-
Hay and Roughage	2	3	95	-
VS=Very Short, SH=Short, AD=Adequate, S=Surplus				

Crop Progress				
Crop/Activity	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2000	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Headed	100	93	100	98
Winter Wheat Harvest	4	-	5	3
Barley Headed	100	95	100	97
Barley Harvested	2	-	1	1
Potatoes Harvested	7	3	7	3
Dry Peas Harvested	4	-	1	0
Alfalfa, 2 <sup>nd</sup> cutting	82	63	81	72
Alfalfa, 3 <sup>rd</sup> cutting	5	-	3	1

Crop Condition *					
Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	13	46	39	-
Winter Wheat Irrigated	-	-	-	100	-
Spring Wheat Dryland	5	35	40	20	-
Spring Wheat Irrigated	-	-	-	100	-
Barley Dryland	5	34	38	23	-
Barley Irrigated	-	-	-	100	-
Dry Beans	-	-	2	98	-
Corn	-	-	3	97	-
Potato	-	-	8	92	-
VP=Very Poor, P=Poor, F=Fair, G=Good, EX=Excellent					

\* Crop conditions are a measure of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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## COUNTY COMMENTS

### WESTERN

**Grays Harbor/Lewis:** Light rains over the weekend should help green peas and grain crops. Corn growth was limited by cool weather. The rain should have been beneficial to non-irrigated corn, although it was not sufficient to make much difference for more than a week or two.

**Grays Harbor:** Another week of summer weather created a nearly perfect environment for agricultural activity throughout the county. Hay harvest continued with excellent quality reported due to the lack of rainfall. Very warm temperatures, during mid-week, resulted in significant growth of sweet corn. Livestock producers were pulling tansy ragwort from infested fields. Organic vegetable growers were battling Canada thistle and morning glory. Christmas tree growers sprayed insecticides to control aphids on Douglas fir trees.

**King/Pierce:** Two weeks of warm, dry weather allowed farmers to harvest very good quality hay. Strawberry harvest was nearly complete. Raspberry harvest was about one third complete, with excellent quality berries. Boysenberry harvest was also underway. Rhubarb, lettuce, cabbage, and carrot harvest continued. Early flower bulb digging was underway. Warm season vegetables were growing well, but still have a long way to go before harvest.

**Pierce/Thurston:** Crop conditions remained good for the area. There were no unusual situations to report, and no reports of crop damage due to weather conditions.

**Skagit:** Some irrigated crops, like sweet corn, were showing signs of drought stress. Strawberry harvest was ending, and raspberry harvest was in full swing. Both crops looked good. A small amount of rain did not hamper harvest operations. Pea harvest was in progress.

**Snohomish:** Rain is badly needed. The little amount that fell on Sunday was not enough to do much good. Cutting and baling local hay continued. Pastures were dormant due to lack of precipitation. Raspberry harvest was underway, and blueberries were sizing up.

**Thurston:** Another week of sunny, warm weather with no rain, provided agricultural producers with the opportunity to finish up on harvesting hay. Hay quality, throughout the county, was very good due to an extended period of nearly ideal harvest condition, over the past several weeks. Strawberry harvest began to wind down. Both blueberry and raspberry harvest began with excellent yields reported. Irrigation was being utilized, where available. Turfgrass growers were cultivating harvested fields in preparation for planting. Christmas tree growers were top-working Noble fir trees.

### CENTRAL

**Benton:** Cherry harvest was nearly complete. Apricots were being harvested. Hot temperatures were adding to the severity of drought stress in various crops grown in junior water right irrigation districts.

**Chelan/Douglas:** Heavy rain (approximately 0.8") was received in the Waterville area and within a 5 mile radius, over a one hour period. The winter wheat yield is expected to be well below average. Heat and drought caused some of the wheat to burn. The apple crop is

expected to be small, but larger than earlier estimates. Damage to the cherry crop continued to become known. Orchards in the Wenatchee Heights and Stemilt Hills were noting between 40-50 percent culls. The damage was blamed on wind and hail. Pastures and rangelands were still suffering due to the dry conditions.

**Franklin:** Weather conditions varied during the week. It was generally very warm, but

there were also periods of rain and strong wind. Winter wheat harvest began, as did early potato harvest. Cherry harvest and the second cutting of alfalfa continued.

**Grant:** Dryland winter wheat harvest began in the lower precipitation regions, and will be in full swing next week. The second cutting of alfalfa, processing peas, and cherry harvesting was complete

**Grant (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Cherry harvest continued. Hand thinning of apples progressed. Apricot and peach harvest continued. Dry pea swathing and harvest was in progress. Wheat harvesting began.

**Kittitas:** Extreme heat and high temperatures increased irrigation use. Producers are afraid irrigation will be turned off in the next couple of weeks. Pastures were still doing well, but range was quickly drying out. Potatoes and sweet corn were doing very well.

## **EASTERN**

**Adams:** Harvest started late last week in the southern end of the county, and should pick up this week if similar patterns continue.

**Asotin & Garfield:** Hot weather continued to bring crops on quickly and harvest started in the lower elevations in both counties. In Asotin County, nearly all crops will be below normal due to the drought, with severe damage to recrop winter wheat, spring wheat, spring barley, and hay crops. In Garfield County, the summer fallow winter wheat still looked good, and yields should be near normal in many areas. Recrop winter wheat, spring wheat and barley yields are expected to be below normal, with severe damage in certain fields.

**Garfield (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Grass seed harvest was underway. There was some low country

harvest in the dry parts of fields. Most harvests were a week away. Pastures were gone and hay was high priced.

**Lincoln:** The week was hot and dry and it turned cloudy towards week's end. A lightning storm passed through the area, providing some rain, but also starting some fires in the area. There were no reports of any grain being destroyed by fire. Harvesting of winter canola began. Pastures were dry and the hay crop production is down.

**Whitman:** Dry conditions continued to impact crops. Fussarian root rot, at a yield reducing level, was reported in winter and spring cereal grains in some areas.

# WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS

July 16, 2001

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham	51	77	61	-2	77	-7	15	-6	0.02	-0.27	1	25.52	-8.71	75	140
Everett	50	77	60	-3	73	-15	14	-7	0.16	-0.12	1	24.27	-10.32	70	137
Hoquiam	50	68	58	-3	54	-17	0	-7	0.01	-0.27	1	42.28	-23.78	64	156
Kelso	48	84	63	-2	90	-4	24	-4	0.00	-0.21	0	19.59	-25.17	44	122
Olympia	43	84	61	-3	76	-12	15	-6	0.00	-0.19	0	30.02	-19.12	61	134
Seattle-Tacoma	50	82	63	-3	89	-16	25	-10	0.00	-0.17	0	23.94	-11.91	67	123
Shelton	49	84	62	-3	84	-18	17	-18	0.00	-0.21	0	40.68	-22.81	64	140
Tacoma	50	82	62	-3	88	-11	22	-11	0.00	-0.21	0	26.05	-12.67	67	130
Vancouver	53	89	68	4	125	24	55	21	0.00	-0.20	0	22.62	-17.25	57	136
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	52	95	72	5	155	30	85	29	0.00	-0.07	0	6.98	-1.49	82	72
Omak	55	101	76	10	187	67	117	64	0.02	-0.12	1	5.78	-7.89	42	61
Stampede Pass	42	74	57	3	57	19	8	2	0.04	-0.28	1	52.87	-25.88	67	163
Wenatchee	60	99	77	5	194	33	124	32	0.00	-0.07	0	5.52	-2.29	71	66
Yakima AP	52	99	75	6	178	40	108	40	0.00	-0.03	0	4.70	-2.84	62	60
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	52	100	73	8	165	53	95	49	0.00	-0.21	0	12.14	-7.62	61	74
Deer Park	45	95	68	0	131	0	61	-1	0.02	-0.19	1	12.76	-4.65	73	108
Spokane AP	55	95	73	5	160	31	90	30	0.00	-0.14	0	9.99	-5.50	64	94
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	60	101	78	4	195	22	125	22	0.00	-0.07	0	5.24	-1.58	77	67
Moses Lake	56	100	76	2	181	8	111	8	0.00	-0.07	0	6.47	-0.35	95	63
Quincy	60	98	77	7	193	48	123	48	0.00	-0.07	0	5.15	-2.23	70	57
Ritzville	51	98	75	7	176	45	106	43	0.00	-0.08	0	9.17	-1.59	85	74
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	60	101	81	4	215	23	145	23	0.00	0.00	0	6.13	0.04	101	61
Pasco	55	102	78	4	198	27	128	26	0.02	0.02	1	7.54	0.51	107	71
Pullman	47	91	68	4	128	24	58	20	0.00	-0.16	0	12.79	-7.13	64	103
Walla Walla AP	60	100	78	4	196	22	126	22	0.00	-0.13	0	15.38	-3.08	83	93
Whitman Mission	54	101	76	6	186	40	116	40	0.00	-0.08	0	13.93	1.00	108	97
<b>WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE</b>															
Coeur D'A'AP	50	93	71	3	146	15	76	13	0.00	-0.21	0	24.31	0.00	100	318
Lewiston ID	61	99	80	7	209	42	139	42	0.02	-0.12	1	11.34	0.00	100	318

Summary based on NWS data.

Season CUMulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2000

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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